

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 IO-14 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 SPC-03 SAM-01 NSC-10 CIEP-02

SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

H-03 DRC-01 IGA-02 /170 W
----- 070212

R 151635Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8508

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, DA

SUBJ: EXTENSION OF FOOD AID CONVENTION (FAC)

REF: A. STATE 28914, B. COPENHAGEN 289

PASS AGRICULTURE

BEGIN SUMMARY. DANES REMAIN OPPOSED TO FAC EXTENSION, ARE KEEPING
IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH BRITISH AND HAVE HINTED THEY MAY RECONSIDER
THEIR POSITION SHOULD BRITISH DROP THEIR OBJECTIONS. FONOFF HAS JUST
LEARNED THAT FEB. 26 EC COUNCIL MEETING ON DEVELOPMENT AID (WHERE
FAC WAS TO BE CONSIDERED) HAS BEEN CANCELLED WITH MARCH 21
PROPOSED AS NEW DATE. DANES SAY THEY WILL PROBABLY NOT HAVE THEIR
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FINAL POSITION UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE THAT DATE. END SUMMARY.

1. DCM AND ECONOFF RAISED FAC WITH FONOFF UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, JENS CHRISTENSEN, FEB. 15, PROVIDING US POSITION ALONG LINES REF A AND URGING DANISH ACCESSION TO FAC EXTENSION. CHRISTENSEN WAS EXTREMELY NEGATIVE, POINTING TO CLEAR, HISTORIC DANISH POSITION OF OPPOSITION TO FAC ON PRINCIPLE AS INEFFECTIVE AND WASTEFUL AID METHOD. HE NOTED THAT WHILE TERMS OF DANISH ACCESSION TO EC REQUIRED IT RESUME PARTICIPATION IN FAC, DENMARK HAD MADE CLEAR AT THAT TIME ITS RESOLVE NOT TO PARTICIPATE AFTER EXPIRATION OF PRESENT AGREEMENT UNLESS FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES WERE MADE IN NATURE AND ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM. HE POINTED OUT THAT LONG-PROMISED EC COMMISSION MEMORANDUM ON FOOD AID POLICY HAS NOT YET BEEN PRESENTED. FOR DENMARK NOW TO AGREE TO FAC EXTENSION WITHOUT HAVING HAD ANY OF ITS CONDITIONS MET WOULD, IN CHRISTENSEN'S VIEW, SET UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT, LEADING OTHERS IN FUTURE NOT TO TAKE DANISH STATEMENTS SERIOUSLY. HE NOTED ALSO THAT IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF PARLIAMENT ARE OPPOSED TO DANISH PARTICIPATION.

2. CHRISTENSEN SAID THAT IN ANY CASE BRITISH REMAIN OPPOSED AND HE DID NOT THINK THEY WOULD CHANGE THEIR VIEW UNLESS FRENCH AGREE TO BRITISH PROPOSAL ON AID TO EC ASSOCIABLES. HE FELT DENMARK WOULD NOT SERIOUSLY RECONSIDER ITS POSITION UNLESS BRITISH DID LIKEWISE. HE ADMITTED THAT, IF BRITISH DROPPED THEIR OPPOSITION, DENMARK WOULD BE INSENSITIVE POSITION.

3. WE ARGUED THAT WE ARE AT PRESENT LESS CONCERNED ABOUT EFFECTIVENESS OF FAC--WHICH, LIKE ALL AID PROGRAMS, HAS ITS IMPERFECTIONS --THAN ABOUT PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT OF ABANDONING AN AID PROGRAM AT THIS DELICATE MOMENT WHEN LDCS ARE MORE THAN EVER IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE. WE NOTED IMPORTANCE OF FC AS FORUM TO DISCUSS JUST SUCH PROBLEMS AND HOPED DENMARK WOULD CONSIDER PROBLEM FROM THIS VIEWPOINT. CHRISTENSEN WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY STATEMENT THAT US WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN FAC IF EC DID NOT, RECOGNIZING POSSIBILITY THAT DENMARK COULD (IF BRITISH CHANGED VIEW) BECOME SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR SCUTTLING OF PROGRAM.

4. CHRISTENSEN NOTED THAT EC PARTICIPATION IN FAC IS ON TWO LEVELS--IT PARTICIPATES AS COMMUNITY AND ALSO AS INDIVIDUAL STATES. HE SAID DENMARK WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO CONTINUING PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AND AT ONE TIME SUGGESTED THAT THIS BE DONE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH MEMBER STATES PARTICIPATING OR NOT, ACCORDING TO INDIVIDUAL CHOICE. HE SAID DENMARK WAS TOLD BY EC THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPT-

TABLE.

5. ECONOFF AND AGATT ALSO HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH BJORN OLSEN, OFFICE DIRECTOR IN DANISH AID AGENCY (DANIDA) RESPONSIBLE FOR FAC POLICY. HE TOLD US INITIALLY, WHEN FEBRUARY 26 EC COUNCIL MEETING

WAS STILL SCHEDULED, THAT DANISH GOVT WOULD EEACH DECISION ON FAC EXTENSION BY FEBRUARY 20. HE HAS SINCE INFORMED US THAT COUNCIL MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED BECAUSE BRITISH SAID THAT CONFLICT WITH ELECTIONS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO SEND A MINISTER TO MEETING ON THAT DATE. ACCORDING TO OLSEN, DATE NOW PROPOSED FOR COUNCIL MEETING ON DEVELOPMENT POLICY IS MARCH 21. HE HOPED THAT CO-MMISSION WOULD BY THAT TIME HAVE ITS LONG-AWAITED MEMO OF FOOD AID POLICY READY. IF IT INVOLVES CHANGE IN EC ADMINISTRATION OF FAC (IN DANISH VIEW PRESENTLY MONPOLIZED BY FRENCH FOR POLITICAL NOT AID PURPOSES), DANISH POSITION MIGHT BE INFLUENCED FAVORABLY.

6. WITH DELAY IN COUNCIL MEETING, OLSEN SID DANES WILL ALSO DELAY THEIR FINAL DECISION. IN MEANWHILE, THEY WILL KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH BRITISH, TAKING VIEW THAT DENMARK NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT REVISING ITS PRESENT VIEWS SO LONG AS THE BRITISH DO NOT EITHER. IF BRITISH DROP THEIR OPPOSITION, OLSEN (POTECT) PERSONALLY THOUGHT DENMARK MIGHT BE PRESSURD INTO ACCEPTING A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION.

7. EMBASSY COMMENT. WE TOLD DANES WE WERE CONCERNED OVER EFFECT FURTHER DELAY IN EC DECISION-MAKING WILL HAVE ON PROSPECTS FOR MEETING RATIFICATION TIMETABLE. DANES TOLD US THEY UNDERSTAND FINAL DATE FOR INDICATNG ASSENT IS EARLY APRIL. AS TO POSSIBILITIES OF A POSITIVE DANISH DECISION, WE BELIEVE THIS WILL, IN FIRST INSTANCE, DEPEND ON UK. IF BRITISH CHANGE THEIR POSITION, AND COMMUNITY APPLIES FULL PRESSURE ON DANES, WE THINK DANES WOULD GO ALONG, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY, FOR MINIMUM EXTENSION PERIOD PROVIDED THEY ALSO OBTAIN SOME ASSURANCES OF CHANGES IN EC ADMINISTRATION OF FOOD AID PROGRAM.

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